

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6-16, 20-23 and 25-27 are rejected. Claims 5, 17-19 and 24 are objected to. Claims 1-27 remain in the case for reconsideration. Reconsideration is requested. No new subject matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 17-19 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5, 17-19 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form and are therefore now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 9, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Andrews et al. (US 4,935,810).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10-11, 20 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews et al.

Claims 2, 14 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews et al. and further in view of Bolton (US 5,768,433).

Claims 3, 6-7, 15 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews et al. and further in view of Kim (US 5,737,019).

Claims 4, 8, 16 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews et al. and further in view of Peng et al. (US 6,618,445).

Claims 1, 13 and 20 have been amended to further clarify the patentable subject matter of the invention. For example, claim 1 has been amended to specify identifying adjacent blocks in the image, identifying coding parameters for the adjacent blocks, comparing the coding parameters between the adjacent blocks, and skipping deblock filtering for removing image residuals caused by the coding process according to the comparison of the coding parameters between the identified adjacent blocks when the comparison indicates that the adjacent blocks have similar coding parameters.

Andrews does not compare the coding parameters between two adjacent blocks and

decide whether or not to deblock filter the blocks according to that coding parameter comparison. Conversely, Andrews compares each block with a same predetermined quantization value PQUANT threshold value of at least 5 and determines whether or not to conduct deblock filtering according the predetermined PQUANT comparison. (Col. 5, line 36- col. 6, line 5).

Andrews never compares the coding parameters between the two adjacent blocks. It's this comparison that more effectively determines whether or not deblock filtering needs to be conducted. For example, if two adjacent blocks in Andrews both have PQUANT values of 6, both blocks would be deblock filtered. However, because the two adjacent blocks have the same PQUANT values, deblock filtering may not be necessary.

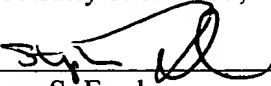
Because deblock filtering in the present claims is determined according to the comparison of the coding parameters between the two adjacent blocks, deblock filtering is more effective.

Claim 1 has also been amended to specify deblock filtering as the process of removing image residuals caused by encoding. There is no suggestion in Bolton of conducting deblock filtering for removing image residuals. The filter 61 in Bolton referred to by the Examiner is used for encoding macroblocks, not for deblock filtering to remove image residuals created by encoding as specified in claim 1. Col. 9, lines 62-67. There is also no suggestion in Bolton or Andrews of skipping deblock filtering when the adjacent blocks have similar motion vectors pointing to a same reference image frame as specified in claim 2.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-27 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

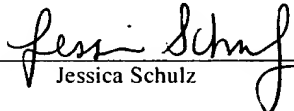
Respectfully submitted,



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